

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-67 (Canceled)

68. (New) A method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of video programs together to a plurality of consumer locations in response to video program pre-selections made by said consumer locations; and

billing a consumer location within the plurality of consumer locations once a video program that has been pre-selected and then pre-recorded at the consumer location has been selected for viewing.

69. (New) The method of claim 68, further comprising:

encoding the transmitted video programs with data permitting playback only on a playback device with compatible decoder.

70. (New) The method of claim 68 further comprising:

encoding the transmitted video programs with time-based code keys A.

71. (New) The method of claim 70 wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based key codes B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer locations and time-based codes C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, wherein a customer can only view a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received.

72. (New) The method of claim 71 further comprising:

communicating video program playback information from each consumer location to a central controller system when the time-based codes C are provided.

73. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein the act of transmitting a plurality of video programs is carried out by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.

74. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 68.

75. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 69.

76. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 70.

77. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 71.

78. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 72.

79. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 73.

80. (New) A device comprising:
a receiving mechanism configured to receive a plurality of pre-selected video programs transmitted together;
an identification mechanism configured to identify video programs within the plurality of transmitted video programs received by the receiving mechanism as those previously selected by a particular consumer location associated with the video recording device; and
a recording mechanism configured to record said previously selected video programs once identified by the identification mechanism.

81. (New) The device of claim 80 further comprising:
a playback mechanism configured to playback recorded previously selected video programs upon selection for playback by a user; and
a billing mechanism in communication with the playback mechanism configured to transmit billing information to a central billing system accounting for each time the previously selected video program has been selected for playback.

82. (New) The device of claim 81 further comprising:

a control mechanism in communication with the receiving mechanism configured to verify a received combination of time-based code keys for authorizing play-back of said transmitted video programs at a desired time, and enabling said playback.

83. (New) The device of claim 82 further comprising:

a decoding mechanism in communication with the control mechanism configured to decode transmitted video programs wherein time-based code keys A that are encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based key codes B that are blanket transmitted to a plurality of consumer locations and time-based codes C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing such that a consumer can only view a video program if all three codes keys A, B and C have been received by the playback device.

84. (New) The device of claim 83 wherein the billing mechanism comprises:

a mechanism configured to communicate an identity of said previously selected video program and a unique identifying address associated with said consumer to said central billing system upon initiating play-back of the previously selected video program; and

a playback-enabling mechanism configured to receive from said central billing system the third time-based code key for identifying a status of said consumer to enable said play-back of said previously selected video program.